



PATENT APPLICATION
Q69266

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of

Hiroo MATSUNAGA

Appln. No.: 10/089,545

Group Art Unit: 3617

Confirmation No.: 5022

Examiner: TBA

Filed: April 1, 2002

For: METHOD OF MANUFACTURING PNEUMATIC TIRE
AND VULCANIZATION MOLD USED THEREFOR

STATEMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.704(d)

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

The undersigned attorney hereby states that, based upon information and belief, each item of information contained in the Information Disclosure Statement filed concurrently herewith was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application, and that the communication was not received by any individual designated in 37 C.F.R. §1.56(c) more than thirty days prior to the filing of said Information Disclosure Statement.

Respectfully submitted,

Steven M. Gruskin
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SUGHRUE MION, PLLC
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WASHINGTON OFFICE

23373

CUSTOMER NUMBER

Date: March 3, 2004



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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
UNDER 37 C.F.R. §§1.97 AND 1.98

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In accordance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, Applicant hereby notifies the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office of the documents listed on the attached Form PTO/SB/08 A & B (modified) that the Examiner may deem material to the patentability of the claims of the above-identified application.

One copy of each of the listed documents is submitted herewith.

The present Information Disclosure Statement is being filed: (1) no later than three months from the application's filing date; or (2) before the mailing date of the first Office Action on the merits (whichever is later); or (3) before the mailing date of the first Office Action after filing a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) under 35 U.S.C. §1.114 and, therefore, no Statement under 37 C.F.R. §1.97(e) or fee under 37 C.F.R. §1.17(p) is required. Nevertheless, inasmuch as a Statement Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e) can be made, Applicant submits the same herewith.

The present Information Disclosure Statement is being filed within thirty days from the date of a corresponding European Search Report dated February 3, 2004, and, therefore, a Statement Under 37 C.F.R. §1.704(d) is also attached.

In compliance with the concise explanation requirement under 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(a)(3) for foreign language documents, Applicant encloses herewith a copy of the aforementioned EPO Search Report issued in a counterpart application (EP 01 95 5566) citing such documents, together with an English-language version (if not already included) of at least that portion of the EPO Search Report indicating the degree of relevance found by the searching authority.

The submission of the listed documents is not intended as an admission that any such document constitutes prior art against the claims of the present application. Applicant does not waive any right to take any action that would be appropriate to antedate or otherwise remove any listed document as a competent reference against the claims of the present application.

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
U.S. Serial No. 10/089,545

Art Unit 3617
Q69266

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees (except the Issue Fee and/or the Publication Fee) to our Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account. A duplicate copy of this paper is also attached.

Respectfully submitted,



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WASHINGTON OFFICE

23373

CUSTOMER NUMBER

Date: March 3, 2004

Substitute for Form 1449 A & B/PTO

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE
STATEMENT BY APPLICANT**

(use as many sheets as necessary)

Complete if Known

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|------------------------|-----------------|
| Application Number | 10/089,545 |
| Confirmation Number | 5022 |
| Filing Date | April 1, 2002 |
| First Named Inventor | Hiroo MATSUNAGA |
| Art Unit | 3617 |
| Examiner Name | TBA |
| Attorney Docket Number | Q69266 |

Sheet 1 of 1

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

| Examiner Initials* | Cite No. ¹ | Document Number | | Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY | Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document |
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| | | Number | Kind Code ² (if known) | | |
| | AA | 5,798,076 | A | 08/25/1998 | Ladouce |
| | AB | 4,573,894 | A | 03/04/1986 | Blayne, et al. |
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FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

| Examiner Initials* | Cite No. ¹ | Foreign Patent Document | | | Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY | Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document | Translation ⁶ |
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| | | Country Code ³ | Number ⁴ | Kind Code ⁵ (if known) | | | |
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| | AS | | | | | | |
| | AT | | | | | | |

NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS

| Examiner Initials* | Cite No. ¹ | Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city, and/or country where published. | Translation ⁶ |
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| | AU | | |
| | AV | | |
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| | AY | | |
| | AZ | | |

Examiner Signature

Date Considered

*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

¹ Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ² See Kind Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov, MPEP 901.04 or in the comment box of this document. ³ Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST. 3). ⁴ For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵ Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. ⁶ Applicant is to indicate here if English language Translation is attached.